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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dobbins

Serial No.: 09/960,595

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR AN ELECTRONIC DROP SAFE

Group: 3627

Examiner: Chilcott, Richard

*On file
for filing
1/19/05*
Durham, North Carolina
January 19, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to First Action Final Official Action

Sir:

Remarks

This response replies to the first action Final Official Action mailed December 1, 2004.

In that Action, all of the presently pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on various combinations of art, all of which include Reger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,643,843 (Reger).

With regard to these 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections based on combinations of art including Reger, the Applicant is filing a Showing of Common Ownership in conjunction with this